Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (cancelled)

Claim 2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (cancelled)

Claim 4. (cancelled)

Claim 5. (currently amended) A method for producing an electroconductive powder which comprises adding an aqueous acidic solution in which a tin compound and a phosphorus compound are dissolved and an aqueous alkaline solution to an aqueous suspension of titanium dioxide in which the content of a metallic element having a valence of 4 or less contained in the titanium dioxide as an impurity is 0.02 or less as (B) obtained by the ~~above~~ following formula (2)

Formula (2): $(B) = (M'_1) \times (4-n'_1) + (M'_2) \times (4-n'_2) + (M'_3) \times (4-n'_3) + (M'_4) \times (4-n'_4) + \ldots + (M'_Y) \times (4-n'_Y)$

(in the above formula, M'_1, M'_2, M'_3, M'_4, ..., M'_Y represent an atomic ratio of each metallic element having a valence of 4 or less, the atomic ratio being to Ti of titanium dioxide, n'_1, n'_2, n'_3, n'_4, ..., n'_Y represent a valence number of each metallic element having the atomic ratio of M'_1, M'_2, M'_3, M'_4, ..., M'_Y, Y in M'_Y and n'_Y represents the number of the metallic element contained in the titanium dioxide and can have a natural number of 1 or more,

with maintaining pH of the aqueous suspension in the range of 2-6 or 8-12, then fractionating the resulting product, and firing the product in an air or in an atmosphere of low oxygen concentration at a temperature of 600-925°C to form an electroconductive layer containing tin oxide and phosphorus on the surface of the titanium dioxide.

Claim 6. (new) A method according to claim 5, wherein the pH is 8-12.

Claim 7. (new) A method according to claim 5, wherein the firing is carried out in the atmosphere of low oxygen concentration.

Claim 8. (new) An electroconductive powder obtained by the method of claim 5 wherein the electroconductive powder obtained has an electroconductive layer containing tin oxide and phosphorus, but containing no antimony on the surface of titanium dioxide, and the content of a metallic element having a valence of 4 or less which is contained as an impurity in the electroconductive powder is 0.1 or less as (A) obtained by the following formula (1):

Formula (1): $(A) = (M_1) \times (4-n_1) + (M_2) \times (4-n_2) + (M_3) \times (4-n_3) + (M_4) \times (4-n_4) + \ldots + (M_X) \times (4-n_X)$

(in the above formula, M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4, ..., M_X represent an atomic ratio of each metallic element having a valence of 4 or less to Sn of the tin oxide in the electroconductive powder, n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, ..., n_X represent a valence number of each metallic element having the atomic ratio of M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4, ..., M_X, X in M_X and n_X

represents the number of the metallic element contained in the electroconductive powder and can have a natural number of 1 or more.

Claim 9. (new) An electroconductive powder obtained by the method of claim 5 wherein the pH of the aqueous suspension is maintained in the range of 8-12 and the electroconductive powder obtained has an electroconductive layer containing tin oxide and phosphorus, but containing no antimony on the surface of titanium dioxide, and the content of a metallic element having a valence of 4 or less which is contained as an impurity in the electroconductive powder is 0.1 or less as (A) obtained by the following formula (1):

Formula (1): $(A) = (M_1) \times (4-n_1) + (M_2) \times (4-n_2) + (M_3) \times (4-n_3) + (M_4) \times (4-n_4) + \ldots + (M_X) \times (4-n_X)$

(in the above formula, M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4, ..., M_X represent an atomic ratio of each metallic element having a valence of 4 or less to Sn of the tin oxide in the electroconductive powder, n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, ..., n_X represent a valence number of each metallic element having the atomic ratio of M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4, ..., M_X, X in M_X and n_X represents the number of the metallic element contained in the electroconductive powder and can have a natural number of 1 or more; and

a specific surface area of the electroconductive layer is $70m^2/g$ or smaller.

Claim 10. (new) An electroconductive powder obtained by the method of

claim 8 or 9, wherein the amount of the tin oxide forming the electroconductive layer is in the range of 0.015-0.3 g as SnO_2 per 1 m^2 of the surface area of titanium dioxide.

Claim 11. (new) An electroconductive powder obtained by the method of claim 8 or 9, wherein the amount of the phosphorus contained in the electroconductive layer with respect to tin oxide is a proportion of 0.10-0.50 in terms of the atomic ratio P/Sn.